

DOUG LAMBORN  
5TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
CHAIRMAN,  
WATER, POWER AND OCEANS



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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October 8, 2017

Chairman John McCain  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
Russell Senate Building, Room 228  
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Mac Thornberry  
House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Jack Reed  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
Russell Senate Building, Room 228  
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Adam Smith  
House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: NDAA Conference Priorities for Colorado's 5th District

Dear Chairman McCain, Chairman Thornberry, Ranking Member Reed, and Ranking Member Smith,

I am pleased and honored to have the privilege of serving with you on the Conference committee for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018. I look forward to working with you and your staff to resolve many important issues, including my following Conference priorities:

1. **Space Reform.** The House bill contains provisions establishing a Space Corps (sec. 1601), and establishing United States Space Command as a subordinate unified command of United States Strategic Command (sec. 1602). The Senate amendment contains provisions establishing a Chief Information Warfare Officer (sec. 902), extending to six years the term of service of the Commander of Air Force Space Command (sec. 1601), classifying space as a combat domain (sec. 1605), and prohibiting the establishment of a Space Corps (sec. 6605). Given the urgent need for reform, including sufficient elevation of the authority and responsibility over the national security space enterprise, I request the Senate recede. The status quo is simply unacceptable, as it will never enable the Department to adequately prioritize space as a true warfighting domain. At a minimum, House section 1602 is a step in the right direction.

2. **Missile Defense.** The House bill contains an additional \$619.3 million for missile defense, compared to the Senate amendment. To ensure U.S. capability stays ahead of rapidly growing threats, I request the Senate recede to the House funding increases.

In addition, the House bill also contains a provision (sec. 1684) that enhances the Operational Test and Evaluation of the Ballistic Missile Defense System. The Senate amendment contains no similar provision. I request the Senate recede.

Finally, the House bill contains a provision (sec. 1244) requiring development of an INF-range ground-launched missile system, while the Senate amendment contains an additional \$65 million for this purpose. I request the conference agreement include the House provision as well as the Senate funding increase.

3. **End strength for active forces.** The House bill contains a provision (sec. 401) that would authorize active-duty end strengths for fiscal year 2018 as follows: Army 486,000; Navy 327,900; Marine Corps 185,000; Air Force 325,100. The Senate amendment contains a provision (sec. 401) that would authorize active-duty end strengths for fiscal year 2018 as follows: Army 481,000; Navy 327,900; Marine Corps 186,000; Air Force 325,100. In view of the key role the Army plays in our national security strategy, as well as its dangerously high operational tempo, I request the Senate recede.

4. **Pay and Benefits.** The House bill contains a provision (sec. 601) that would allow a military Basic Pay raise of 2.4%. The Senate amendment contains provisions that would limit the increase of military Basic Pay to 2.1% (sec. 601), raise TRICARE fees for servicemembers, military retirees, and their families (sec. 706 and 707), and cut Basic Allowance for Housing for dual-member couples with dependent children (sec. 603). To continue to recruit and retain the best quality all-volunteer force, I request the Senate recede.

5. **National Space Defense Center.** The Senate amendment contains a provision (sec. 6604) expressing a Sense of Congress regarding the National Space Defense Center, and also contains an additional \$68 million to address unfunded Enterprise Space BMC2 requirements. The House contains no similar provision or additional funding. I request the House recede.

6. **Multi-Use SCIFs.** The Senate amendment contains a provision (sec. 11601) regarding requirements for Multi-Use SCIFs similar to language I authored in the House Report for fiscal year 2017. The House bill contains no similar provision. I request the House recede.

7. **Additional funding for PFOS/PFOA Remediation.** The House bill contains an additional \$30 million for Air Force PFOS/PFOA Remediation, and an additional \$30 million for Navy PFOS/PFOA Remediation. The Senate amendment contains a provision (sec. 14009) increasing funding for Air Force Environmental Restoration by \$20 million. I request the Senate recede to the House funding increases.

8. **Additional funding for space and cyber needs.** The House bill contains an additional \$2.5 million to advance commercial capability for the Air Force Satellite Control Network, as well as an additional \$8 million for cyber education and training for Guard and Reserve forces. The Senate contains no similar additional funding. I request the Senate recede to the House funding increases.

9. **Participation in Professional Athletics by Military Service Academy Graduates.** The House bill contains a provision (sec. 541) prohibiting the release of military service academy graduates to participate in professional athletics. The Senate amendment contains a provision (sec. 543) discharging into the Selected Reserve the commissioned service obligation of military service academy graduates who participate in professional athletics. As the House Member who represents the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), and a Member of the USAFA Board of Visitors, I request neither provision be included in the conference agreement, allowing decision authority to remain with the Secretary. If the provision must be included in the conference agreement, I request the House recede.

10. **Lowest Price Technically Acceptable source selection.** The House bill contains a provision (sec. 856) clarifying the use of Lowest Price Technically Acceptable source selection. The Senate amendment contains a similar provision (sec. 825). I request the conference agreement contain paragraph (4) from House sec. 856, regarding electronic test and measurement equipment.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of these important areas for our national defense. My point of contact for our defense priorities is Sam Fletcher, [sam.fletcher@mail.house.gov](mailto:sam.fletcher@mail.house.gov), (202) 225-4422.

Sincerely,



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress